

Barn raising & musicians on the green - Old ideas in a digital world

**- Karsten 'quaid' Wade,
Sr. Community Gardener**



Free <3 Open <3 Free



No surprises overview of this talk

- 1. I cover terminology about the open source way**
- 2. I tell stories and ideas that illustrate the open source way**
- 3. We gain common ground on what the open source way is**
- 4. You tell us illustrative stories & examples**



Know the ingredients of the open source way:



Know the ingredients of the open source way:

**An infrastructure of sharing
(which requires an infrastructure of
participation)**

+

**Something to share
(which needs someone to share it:
participants)**



Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are formed by people who engage in a process of collective learning in a shared domain of human endeavor: a tribe learning to survive, a band of artists seeking new forms of expression, a group of engineers working on similar problems, a clique of pupils defining their identity in the school, a network of surgeons exploring novel techniques, a gathering of first-time managers helping each other cope. In a nutshell: Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

- Wenger, McDermott, Snyder “Cultivating Communities of Practice”



Elements of a Communities of Practice

--

Domain (what)
Community (who)
Practice (how)



Principles of Communities of Practice

--

1. Design for evolution
2. Open a dialogue 'tween in/out
3. Invite different levels of participation
4. Develop public/private spaces
5. Focus on value
6. Combine familiarity & excitement
7. Create a rhythm for the community





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Raising a barn (infrastructure of participation)



Musicians on the green (participants sharing)



Musicians on the green (participants sharing)



Tom Sawyer is not the open source way



**"Resonance naturally amplifies even the smallest of properly coordinated incremental impulses."
- Michael Tiemann**



Stories from the audience:



**Digital commons – the musicians' common
meets the open video movement.**



Questions?

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Links:

<http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki>

<http://quaid.fedorapeople.org/presentations>



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These are my bona fides, or why you should trust me:
Long-time Fedora contributor; FOSS advocate for 10
years; Red Hat's community leadership team.

Standing on the shoulders of giants who have been
developing these models, methods, and stories for
20 years.

Questions:

Who here is comfortable understanding what open
source software is?

Who can explain what open source is within 2
minutes? 1 minute? 30 seconds? 15 seconds?

Free <3 Open <3 Free

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Constructed war v. healthy debate in a CoP.

Fundamentally, we are in violent agreement the majority of the time and cases.

But people associate themselves and feel put out or put off by e.g. “free software”, “open source software”.

Friedman's “The World is Flat”, open source is one of the 10 flatteners; he calls it “the most disruptive force of all.” CIOs took notice.

We've noticed at Red Hat as our business grew across markets as much as deeper in them. Free software brand works great for hackers. Open source brand works great for business.

With both, we've benefited from innovators who didn't feel a fit with the other term.

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At the end of this presentation, you should understand why FOSS is not a fad but rather is the inheritor of a long human tradition around collaboration, openness, apprenticeship, and working respectfully within the commons on matters of common good.

I cover terminology.

I cover stories and illustrations.

We gain common ground.

Your stories – we'll take a quick list of them, and as time permits, invite a few of you up here to tell your story.

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These are the important bits – an infrastructure and people to use it.

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FOSS is a big Community of Practice. So are all these other domains – hunting, lawyering, skateboarding, etc.

CoP scientific discipline is a better measuring stick than downloads and mailing list size. The principles and elements are there or not, working or not.

Pattern Language influence – how humans build environments, from home to cities.

Elements of a Communities of Practice

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Domain (what)
Community (who)
Practice (how)

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3 structural elements:

Domain – area of knowledge: skateboarding, hunting,
IP law

Community – set of people who care about the
domain: skateboarders, hunters, lawyers
- Don't judge by activities, silence, etc.

Practice – what people do and how they do it

Principles of Communities of Practice

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- 7. Create a rhythm for the community**

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Combine familiarity and excitement – Prince St. Boston
Create a rhythm for the community – Meetings,
releases, etc.

Raising a barn (infrastructure of participation)



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Barn raising analogy. All the work is behind the scenes.

When people get together to build bigger than barns, such as towns, they follow these timeless ways of building that arise from people building organically, following need and form and purpose, and are similar the world over. Refer to the book "A Timeless Way of Building" and the related work "A Pattern Language". One set of patterns that arises is around the village greens, which were often a commons for humans and everyone's grazing farm animals.

Musicians on the green (participants sharing)



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Musicians on the green (participants sharing)



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Modern examples include the Grateful Dead, the myriad cover bands and home musicians, and the porcupine back of microphones visible at a concert.

Tom Sawyer is not the open source way



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In these cases, if someone acted against the interests of the community, folks would let them know.

If a family called everyone in to do ALL the barn raising work ...

If a musician only took ideas, used them to make a living, and never contributed back to the musical commons ...

Tom Sawyer could never get away in such a situation -- too much transparency, too high of an expectation, too much experience of knowing what to do with slackers.

**"Resonance naturally amplifies even the
smallest of properly
coordinated incremental impulses."
- Michael Tiemann**



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Stories from the audience:



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Let's hear your stories. I'd like to bring the mic around and hear from all of you - what are stories you would tell that illustrate the open source way without bringing in all the techno mumbo-jumbo.

**Digital commons – the musicians' common
meets the open video movement.**

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYJ9DGysSnE>

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